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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: Application of: James Brian VROTACOE et al.
Serial No.: 10/617,639
Filed: July 11, 2003
For: **PRINTING BLANKET WITH CONVEX
CARRIER LAYER**

Examiner: Leslie J. EVANISKO.
Art Unit: 2854

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 1, 2004

Sir:

In response to the restriction requirement dated May 5, 2004, applicants hereby elect Group I (claims 1 to 14 and 17) without traverse. Applicant also elects Species I F, the embodiment of Figure 2D, on which claims 1, 2, 4 to 14 and 17 read without traverse.

No fee is believed required. If any fee is required at this time, the Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge payment of the same to Deposit Account No. 50-0552.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By: 

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I hereby certify that this document is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "first class mail" with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 1, 2004.

DAVIDSON, DAVIDSON & KAPPEL, LLC

BY: 

Oliver Platz

Claim Listing Group I

Claim 1. A printing blanket comprising:

- a carrier sleeve layer having at least one axially convex surface; and
- a print layer disposed over the carrier sleeve layer.

Claim 2. The printing blanket as recited in claim 1 wherein the carrier sleeve layer is thicker in an axial middle than at axial ends.

Claim 3. The printing blanket as recited in claim 1 wherein the carrier sleeve is of uniform thickness.

Claim 4. The printing blanket as recited in claim 1 wherein the print layer has a uniform thickness.

Claim 5. The printing blanket as recited in claim 1 wherein the print layer is gapless and tubular.

Claim 6. The printing blanket as recited in claim 1 wherein an outer surface of the print layer has a convex axial profile when the blanket is disposed on the blanket cylinder without pressure.

Claim 7. The printing blanket as recited in claim 1 wherein the blanket provides uniform axial print or nip pressure across the width of the blanket.

Claim 8. The printing blanket as recited in claim 1 further including a compressible layer disposed between the carrier sleeve layer and the print layer.

Claim 9. The printing blanket as recited in claim 8 further comprising an inextensible layer disposed over the compressible layer and underneath the print layer.

Claim 10. The printing blanket as recited in claim 1 wherein the printing blanket has at least two axial image areas.

Claim 11. The printing blanket as recited in claim 10 wherein the printing blanket has at least three axial image areas.

Claim 12. An offset printing press comprising:

- an image cylinder;

- a blanket cylinder; and

- a printing blanket having a carrier sleeve layer having at least one axially convex surface and a print layer disposed over the carrier sleeve layer.

Claim 13. The offset printing press as recited in claim 12 wherein the printing press is a lithographic web printing press.

Claim 14. The offset printing press as recited in claim 12 wherein the image cylinder has at least two axial image areas.

Claim 17. The offset printing press as recited in claim 12 wherein the image cylinder has at least two axial image areas.